

U.S. Rep. John B. Larson CT01

First Congressional Youth Cabinet



February 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Rima Parikh, Newington- Co-Chair
Congressman John B. Larson Co-Chair

Rima Parikh, Congressman Larson's CYC meeting Co-Chair from Newington welcomed everyone, especially our newest members of the CYC, and opened the meeting at 10 a.m.

CYC "Youth Updates"

- Asyria and Farzana from the Hartford Job Corps Academy provided an in-depth overview Importance of the Job Corps programs:
 - Provide a breadth of training in career paths-including in the insurance and manufacturing career.
 - Job Corps should be widely publicized, especially to youth who want to procure training in a field where there are meaningful employment opportunities, and to youth who need to finish their high school education.
 - Enrollment of students has been suspended by the U.S. Department of Labor until June of this year. Farzana and Asyria shared how devastating this is to youth who are trying to get workforce training. They thanked the Congressman for all of his advocacy and support on behalf of the 125 Job Corps Centers around the country. They asked for his continued support and the support of the CYC.
- **Updates on the workgroup progress on "The Value of Youth Engagement Forum" planning:**
 - The main goals of "The Value of Youth Engagement Forum" are:
 - 1) To help spread awareness of the value and importance of youth engagement by bringing in guest speakers who can share information on how youth engagement in policy and program development leads to better youth outcomes.
 - 2) To provide information on how to create successful and meaningful youth – adult partnerships.
 - 3) To encourage more levels of government to provide opportunities for meaningful youth engagement.
 - There will be several major planning workgroup dates set for Sundays throughout the next few months.

- It was decided that the previous three conference planning workgroups would be combined for a larger group collaboration
 - We will coordinate content, audience, and presentation all together
- Will no longer be called a “conference,” but rather a “forum”
- The Forum will most likely to take place in June when school is out when a large number of youth who can participate.
- Need to improve the handout/advertisement for the forum
 - Perhaps a better title and layout
 - Target various audiences through different forms of advertisement
 - Catchy, colorful flyers distributed to,
 - High school civics & government classes
 - Technical training high schools
 - High school student councils
 - More serious, professional informational flyers
 - CT delegation
 - State Board of Education
 - Policymakers
 - Make the forum known through Twitter, Facebook, websites, etc.
- **Discussion on 12/14 and how to best honor the community of Newtown.**
- It was agreed that rather than to send “things” to Newtown, that perhaps a better way to pay tribute to the victims, their families and friends, was to have CYC members host “youth discussions” at their respective schools on ways in which to reduce the “culture of violence” in America. CYC members and the Congressman really liked the idea, and CYC Member Tim O’Donnell who represents Northwest Catholic High School has taken the idea one step further. Tim has created a student poll on gun violence that can very quickly gather youth opinion on gun violence in our nation. The information that is gathered from the poll will allow you to share with the Congressman what the youth you represent believe will help make their schools, communities and world more safe. He in turn will share your ideas with his House Colleagues. In addition, the information you gather from the poll could be important to share with your audience at the “Youth Forum” we are planning for early summer.
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- As we were discussing the issue of gun violence and gun owner rights under the 2nd Amendment at last Saturday’s meeting, the Congressman asked what CYC members thought of the idea of legislation that would create a “Youth Bill of Rights.” Suffice it to say, CYC members really loved the idea. However, the Congressman is asking that in order to make the legislation accurately reflect what youth believe their rights should be, *you* and the youth you represent, should develop the list of “youth rights.” As you’ll see, Tim has incorporated the question into the CYC Poll.
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- Thanks to Tim, much of the work has been done. His Two Page “CYC Poll” is a simple tool to use and disseminate. What you would need to do is obtain from your school (Sr. Members can distribute throughout your campuses) administrators, permission to conduct the poll, letting them know that you want to pay tribute to the victims of Newtown by gathering the opinion of

youth that lawmakers and other policymakers can utilize to better ensure that the heartbreaking tragedy of 12/14 never happens again. Please email Eva if you need another copy of the poll.

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- **Earth Day**
 - Is coming up on April 22nd, 2013
 - Congressman Larson is interested in doing a walk/march along Blue Ways/Green Ways (CT River)
 - Call attention to the Earth and the environment and to highlight positive youth engagement.
 - The walk would either fall on Sat. April 21st or Sun. April 22nd

Note: It was decided at the workgroup meeting that took place on March 15th that rather than do an event on Earth Day, the CYC would have an event at the Hockanum River Linear Park to help celebrate "Connecticut Trails Day." The Congressman and the CYC are working with officials from the Park to plan a trail walk (with trail cleaning), a "Trail Mix Recipe Competition" and other fun activities on Saturday, June 1, 201. The Connecticut Trails Day Weekend is designed to help citizens celebrate our natural resources.

MEETING ACCOMPLISHMENTS and GOALS---

- Workgroup for Earth Day March set for March 15, from 3-5p.m.
- Eva will send out an email for an upcoming Youth Forum workgroup
- Make revisions to the current Youth Forum handout
- Go back to your respective communities and collect opinions on 12/14...bring back these opinions so we can begin composing a draft
- SENIOR CYC MEMBERS: think about approaching a freshman you feel would be a wonderful addition to the cabinet
- As always, spread the word about the potential of a Presidential Youth Cabinet, via PopVox!

Other News: The Congressman shared that he plans to reintroduce his original bill to create a "Presidential Youth Council" in this session of Congress. We will be planning a press conference that CYC members will be invited to participate in to announce the bill. Watch for notification.

Following the February Meeting, CYC member Tim O'Donnell from Windsor created a "Youth Survey on Gun Violence" for CYC members to use

Respectfully submitted: Rima Parikh, CYC Newington & E.M. Bunnell-staff to Congressman Larson

